

Regional Stewardship Funding Program

What is the Regional Stewardship Funding Program?

The Regional Stewardship Funding Program is a new initiative that seeks to promote regional and statewide economic development, livable communities, social inclusion, creative governance, and civic participation through public engagement activities initiated by comprehensive university faculty and staff. To help accomplish this goal, campus administrators are expected to design and implement programs that align institutional priorities, resources, and infrastructure to support their missions as stewards of place, and to create partnerships and undertake engagement activities that address regional and state needs.

How does the program work?

The program provides funding for the comprehensive universities in three areas. Infrastructure funds (\$3 million recurring) will support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships necessary to sustain stewardship activities. Regional grant funds (\$9 million recurring) will support comprehensive university efforts to build intellectual capacity in targeted priority areas. Finally, stewardship initiative funds (\$6 million recurring) will support specific public engagement activities at the universities that improve economic prosperity, quality of life, and civic participation in the region or state.

What is the Council's request?

The Council on Postsecondary Education seeks \$3 million of recurring funds in FY 2006-07 and an additional \$15 million of recurring funds in FY 2007-08 to support personnel and operating costs associated with stewardship activities at the comprehensive universities.

Why is funding needed?

Public engagement programs, like basic research, are cost centers for postsecondary institutions. Programs that target the needs of public schools, small businesses, and government and nonprofit agencies require the support of public funds. The Regional Stewardship Funding Program will provide funding to stimulate that work. The benefits of the program include improved economic prosperity, quality of life, and civic participation within comprehensive university service regions and across the state.



Photo source: KSU

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